



# COMMUTER LINES

Volume 15, Number 1

1st Quarter 2008

## CCCD officers shave heads to support co-worker

When Denise McMahon, a 37-year-old police officer for the Crescent City Connection Police Department in New Orleans, was diagnosed with breast cancer in January 2007, she had no idea just how much love and support she would receive from family and co-workers during her fight.

As part of her treatment, she had a modified radical mastectomy of the right breast in February. Then, she took time off work from Feb. 15-July 30 while she received chemotherapy, which caused her hair to fall out.

"It was very hard for me to have to lose my breast," she said, "but having to lose my hair too was like adding insult to injury.

"[Without my hair], it was so much more obvious that there was something wrong with me. Everyone could see that I was bald." Denise tried to wear wigs, but the summer heat in Louisiana made it impossible.

"My hair was just beginning



*Clockwise from top: Christopher Fletcher, Lt. J. Lyons Hale, Helen DeLatte, Denise McMahon, Sgt. Tyrone Barthelemy, Laurin Gantt, Daniel Bergeron.*

to grow back when I returned to work," she said. "I looked like a marine recruit."

On Denise's first night back at work, she learned that seven of her coworkers – men and women alike – had shaved their heads to show their support for her.

"It was excellent," she said. "I was deeply touched and moved to tears. These people – some that I barely knew – had

sacrificed their hair for me. I was astonished!"

Denise hopes this story inspires other survivors and their friends and families. "Even though I have told them thank you and how much I appreciate what they did, they will never really know just how much their sacrifice means to me," she said. "I want as many people to know about this as possible."

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# BITS AND PIECES

with SECRETARY WILLIAM D. ANKNER, PH.D.

## New DOTD secretary discusses his vision, philosophies, priorities

**G**ov. Bobby Jindal has named Dr. William D. Ankner as DOTD's new Secretary. Dr. Ankner comes to Louisiana from Missouri where he was responsible for creating and running the Missouri Transportation Institute and was a principal in his own consulting firm. Dr. Ankner served seven years, from 1996-2003, as CEO of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation and has held senior management positions in the Delaware DOT, New Jersey DOT and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Most recently he served as a panelist to the US Contoller General's Transportation Finance Focus Group and as a participant with the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission's Blue Ribbon Panel of Transportation Experts.

Shortly after his appointment was announced, Dr. Ankner answered some questions from Communications Director Mark Lambert about his transportation philosophy, management style and expectations as he and his wife, Joan, prepared to move from Dixon, Mo., to Baton Rouge.

**Q: Your thoughts on being designated Secretary of Louisiana DOTD?**

A: I'm very grateful to the Governor for this opportunity to take a leadership position in his administration. My goal is to build on the successes that Secretary Bradberry and the DOTD staff have achieved for the people and businesses of Louisiana.

The DOTD's transportation system will be facing significant challenges to maintain and expand its transportation investments. My concerns are to position DOTD to deal with shrinking federal highway funds; to provide a competitive transportation system which will enhance the economic vitality of our state in the face of global competition; to create a safer highway system; to engage the people and businesses of Louisiana in defining our transportation system; to be good environmental stewards and to provide a transparent transportation decision-making structure and process.

**Q: Assuming that Louisiana is not in a unique situation in terms of financial restraints, an aging infrastructure and growing capacity needs, what type of approach do you take to transportation priorities?**

A: My initial focus is to continue preserving our existing infrastructure. If we don't maintain what we have, then concerns about congestion will only increase significantly as bridges require weight restrictions or closure, highways become pothole minefields and traffic has to slow down or be detoured to avoid failing infrastructure.

We need to build an integrated transportation system that uses all transportation modes, including transit, to effectively and efficiently improve the mobility of people and goods in a safe and environmentally accepted manner.

For congestion we need to be



looking at, "Where are the hotspots, where are the problems?" If we add capacity to I-10, can the road system around it handle that extra capacity? It does you no good to expand the interstates if the exit roads can't handle the extra traffic.

**Q: You're known as an advocate of transit. Can you talk about your transit philosophy?**

A: Transportation is a system, not simply a mode of travel, like highways. The answer to our congestion problems is not always to build more highways. We have to be more strategic, and one element we need to con-

**See SECRETARY, page 3**

### SECRETARY

William D. Ankner, Ph.D.

### COMMUTER LINES STAFF

Mark Lambert

Dustin Annison

Sherry Dupre

Amber Hebert

Brendan Rush



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## SECRETARY (continued from page 2)

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sider is transit. We need to think about traffic and opportunities and benefits. Commuter rail is expensive, but if the market exists, we should be looking to develop this alternative to highway congestion.

**Q: So, I take it you're a big fan of ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems).**

A: I'm a huge fan of ITS. I helped put it in the legislation in ISTEA (federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991).

One of the ways states are dealing with congestion problems is through non-barrier toll roads, and they're using HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lanes and HOT (high-occupancy toll) lanes. In California, people are willing to pay \$8 a trip to save 40 minutes to get home faster and save money on the babysitter. The HOT lanes guarantee that you save a certain amount of time. But one of the great benefits of this is, if you take a commuter bus, you use it for free.

We have to take several approaches to congestion, and ITS can help. You can get better mobility and safety if people know that if they go 35 miles per hour, they're going to get a green light. Technology can help us manage this.

**Q: Tell me about your management philosophy.**

A: Having studied some of the greatest minds in the world and recognizing they don't agree, I'm not sure there's always a right answer. I believe in a good and robust dialogue as to what is the best decision for the Department, at this time, with this set of conditions. Input from various people is critical. However, I don't think everybody has to agree with the final decision. We must make decisions within time constraints and with limited information. Consequently I look to the Department, as a whole, to help make the best decisions. I look for staff to challenge me on decisions they have concerns about, and inform me when they think I'm "off the reservation," but I also expect that once a final decision is made, the Department will support the decision and advance it. If there are strong public or legislative controversies to a decision I made, it is my responsibility to justify this decision publicly and not place staff in the position of being a dartboard.

No Secretary of Transportation or their executive staff alone can be effective in providing for the transportation needs of the state. This is a team effort of DOTD. The Department's maintenance and construction personnel are our ambassadors to the community and to tourists. The public sees them much more than they see executive management or me. Hopefully, they recognize their value in

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**“WE NEED TO MANAGE TRAFFIC BY USING INFORMATION SYSTEMS, BY LOOKING AT OTHER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS AND BY LOOKING AT THE SYSTEM THAT SUPPORTS THE INTERSTATES.”**

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**— DR. WILLIAM D. ANKNER, DOTD SECRETARY**

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advancing the Department; I certainly do.

I am a great believer in training, particularly in today's world with its constant introduction of new technologies, materials and methodologies.

I believe I have a high degree of sensitivity to ethics, and I expect my department to act ethically, courteously and with transparency.

**Q: There is always pressure to turn public works functions over to the private sector with the thought that such functions can be accomplished more efficiently by businesses. What are your thoughts on this?**

A: When I went to Rhode Island, the department was perceived so poorly that when I met with the Speaker of the House, he said he had plans to abolish the DOT, walked to his desk, picked up a stack of papers, looked at me and said, "And here's the legislation to do it." But, we got through that. However, the event underscored that transportation departments have to realize that we are not irreplaceable.

I understand that Louisiana's public and legislature had a similar, but not as dramatic view of the DOTD. I think John (Bradberry) and others have done a lot to turn that attitude around in Louisiana. With the public's support we can best determine what we do well and should retain, and what others could do better and cheaper than the public sector. Our goal should not be to preserve "turf" for the sake of "turf," but to provide the best quality transportation system that we can afford for the people and businesses of Louisiana. A blend of public and private will be necessary to deliver that transportation system.

**Q: Do you have any closing remarks?**

A: Yes, I know from my years of experience in three state DOTs that there are many good and hardworking people in DOTs who only want the opportunity to do the best they can. From everything I've read and heard, the Louisiana DOTD is no different. I'm looking forward to working with all of you and being part of the Louisiana DOTD team.

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# Gulf Industries founder inducted into transportation Hall of Honor

**J**ack B. Harper, founder and CEO of Gulf Industries Inc., was inducted posthumously into the Louisiana Highways and Transportation Hall of Honor during a ceremony held Nov. 14 at DOTD's headquarters building.

The Hall of Honor recognizes those individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the development and improvement of Louisiana's transportation network. Their achievements benefit road design, construction techniques, highway safety and legislative programs.

"DOTD values the safety of our employees, our contractors, and those who drive our highways," said then-DOTD Secretary Johnny B. Bradberry. "Naturally, we appreciate those individuals

and companies who also make safety their top priority."

Harper started his highway career after being a successful fence contractor in New Orleans. In 1963, he started Gulf Industries Inc. and its contracting company, Jack B. Harper, which specialize in the sale and installation of highway safety products. These include pavement markings, delineators, barriers, crash attenuators, bridge and street lighting, traffic signals, emergency call boxes, Motorist Assistance Patrol (MAP) and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

One of Harper's first major contributions to the industry was his early use of raised pavement markers. He also was one of the first distributors of crash attenua-



**Jack B. Harper**

tion devices, which have saved countless lives and reduced an incalculable number of injuries.

In addition, Gulf Industries Inc. has been a leader in congestion mitigation through ITS projects such as roadside call boxes, MAP, and the installation of cameras and permanent message signs that alert motorists of incidents.

Guest speakers at the ceremony included Bradberry, Louisiana Good Roads and Transportation Association (LGRTA) President W.P. Wray Jr., LGRTA Vice-President Willie T. Taylor Jr., Former DOTD Secretary Neil Wagoner and Gulf Industries Senior Vice President Roger Melancon.

Established in 1974, the Louisiana Highways and Transportation Hall of Honor is sponsored by the LGRTA in conjunction with DOTD, the Louisiana Engineering Society, the Louisiana State Police, the Consulting Engineers Council and the Louisiana Associated General Contractors.



*Mrs. Jack B. Harper, center, and family install a framed photo of Jack B. Harper on the Transportation Hall of Honor wall, located in the lobby of the DOTD headquarters building.*

# DOTD hosts statewide road tour on surplus funds

**D**OTD's public information office went on the road in December to inform Louisiana taxpayers about the surplus funds received during the 2007 Legislative Session.

In a tour that included nine cities around the state, DOTD Communications Director Mark Lambert and DOTD's district administrators held news conferences that highlighted local area projects that were being funded by the surplus money.

DOTD received \$695 million in additional funding to be used for road construction, preconstruction, ports and flood protection projects across the state.

The \$695 million is a one-time allocation from the Legislature and the governor. DOTD's main source of funding road and bridge construction is through the 16-cent state gasoline tax, which does not keep up with inflation and has lost about half of its value since 1984. As a result, Louisiana now has about \$14 billion in road and bridge projects it cannot afford to complete.

Of the \$695 million DOTD received in surplus funds, the department is using approximately \$570 million to work on approximately 633 miles of highway construction projects. Below is a breakdown of how DOTD budgeted the surplus funds:

- o \$408 million: 117 construction projects detailed in a list DOTD presented to the



*DOTD Communications Director Mark Lambert, left, and John Sanders discuss the surplus-funded projects in the Shreveport area during a news conference.*



*To keep the public informed about which projects are being funded by the surplus money, the sign pictured here was installed on surplus-funded projects around the state.*

legislature. DOTD let all projects on this list by the end of December 2007.

- o \$60 million: construction on I-49 North
- o \$40 million: capacity projects statewide
- o \$30 million: widening project on I-10 in Baton Rouge from the I-10/I-12 split to Siegen Lane
- o \$21 million: completion of MacArthur interchange in Jefferson Parish
- o \$11 million: construction on I-49 South

The remaining \$136 million is budgeted as follows:

- o \$20 million: preconstruction on 35 capacity projects throughout the state
- o \$53 million: hurricane flood protection and evacuation routes. The surplus funds will allow advancement of construction on seven projects.
- o \$42 million: port priority program. The surplus funds will allow advancement of construction on 11 projects.
- o \$5 million: mobility fund. This fund will allow for preconstruction activities on the Baton Rouge loop and the Lafayette loop.
- o \$5 million: Rural Road Bridge Repair Fund. This money will be used to repair bridges on parish and local roads throughout the state.

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# Engineering: It's not just for boys anymore!

**A**s part of National Engineers Week, February 21, 2008, was observed as National "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" Day.

Engineers around the United States used this day to reach out to girls and encourage them to consider a career in engineering. Statistically, only 10 percent of American engineers are women, and interest in engineering from women has only risen two percentage points in 20 years.

In Baton Rouge, a team of engineers from Louisiana TIMED Managers worked with public schools to engage 8th grade girls in discussions and activities related to engineering.

Their campaign, TIMED 2 Explore Engineering ([www.timedla.com/explore](http://www.timedla.com/explore)), was designed to show teens the many aspects of engineering and spark an interest. The team is also using the youth-popular My Space to encourage additional interaction, [www.myspace.com/louisianatimed](http://www.myspace.com/louisianatimed).

In the hands-on activity (pictured above), the 8th graders played Jenga, a Hasbro game consisting



*A group from Louisiana TIMED Managers visited five schools in the Baton Rouge area: Sherwood Middle, Glasgow Middle (pictured), Crestworth Middle, Westdale Middle and Glen Oaks Middle.*

of removing wooden blocks from a tower and maintaining balance and stability. The game is easily tied to engineering as the teens are prompted to think about how engineers alter designs to reduce costs and materials or to change aesthetics. The use of the game also shows how engineers often make models and then modify them during testing phases.

## Officers resuscitate co-worker after heart attack

**D**uring a shift briefing on Feb. 14, 2008, Crescent City Connection Department Police Officer Larry Anderson suffered a massive heart attack. His heart stopped beating and he was not breathing. Larry's co-workers, Johnson Hale, Helen DeLatte, and Jacob Coleman, used the department's

automated external defibrillator (AED) and administered CPR, restarting Officer Anderson's heart and restoring his breathing.

EMT personnel then transported Officer Anderson to Tulane University Hospital of New Orleans, where doctors determined that he had suffered a massive heart attack. Emergency room doctors said the quick action of CCCD Police personnel – along with the use of the AED – saved Officer Anderson's life.

"These three dedicated officers proved they are truly heroes and revealed that even under the most stressful situation they reacted in the proper way and

saved a fellow officer's life," said CCCD Police Captain Peter Maggiore, who has nominated the officers for the DOTD Lifesaver Award.

"Officer Anderson's condition is improving daily," Maggiore said. "His services will be immensely missed by this department and the public while he recovers."

AED machines are not required by the Office of Risk Management; however, according to CCCD Assistant Executive Director Randall Paisant, the CCCD purchased one for each CCCD building in 2005. This was the first time they were used.



*Pictured from left are Helen DeLatte, Jacob Coleman and Johnson Hale.*



*[Above] Mark Chenevert at Hosanna Christian Academy in Baton Rouge. [Right] Billy Moore of TIMED at A. E. Phillips Laboratory School on the Louisiana Tech Campus in Ruston.*



## DOTD employees promote literacy



*Toni Hawkins-Bailey at Belfair Elementary in Baton Rouge.*



*[Above] Emma Suggs at Alice Birney Elementary School in Metairie. [Right] Carolyn Fuller at Boley Elementary School in West Monroe.*



More than 20 DOTD employees across the state joined other volunteers nationwide to celebrate the tenth annual National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across America Day March 3 by reading to children in Louisiana schools.

DOTD district offices in Alexandria, Bossier City, Chase, Baton Rouge, Hammond, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe and New Orleans provided volunteers to read to children in their districts.

DOTD employees are asking you to join them and help promote literacy by reading to children. The goal of Read Across America Day, which is held on or around the anniversary of Dr. Seuss' birthday, is to show children the joy of reading – on March 3 and every day.

For more information on Read Across America, visit [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross).



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# Recalling DOTD's 'Golden' years

## Crescent City artist Rolland Golden revisits early paintings commissioned by highway department

Early in his career, New Orleans native Rolland Golden was commissioned by the state transportation department, then known as the Louisiana Department of Highways, to paint various scenes of the state. In the two-year period of 1959 and 1960, Golden painted about 50 pieces for the department's headquarters building. Since then, Golden has become a well-known artist whose works have earned scores of prestigious awards. Over the years, he has had more than 100 one-man exhibitions and his work has been featured in numerous art books and magazines. In late 2007 – five decades after he began painting the commissioned pieces – Golden returned to the DOTD headquarters building to



*Renowned artist Rolland Golden visits DOTD headquarters to view the pieces he painted more than 50 years ago.*

view the 46 paintings still hanging there.

After his visit, "Commuter Lines" asked Golden a few questions about his life and career:

**Commuter Lines: In what stage was your career when the highway department commissioned you to do the paintings?**

Rolland Golden: I graduated from John McCrady Art School in New Orleans in June 1957, and Stella and I were married Aug. 31, 1957. We were poor. Selling art is a gamble, and we didn't know from one day to the next whether we would sell a painting or not. This was my first big commission – my first big break.

**CL: How did the paintings you did for the highway department shape your career?**

RG: [As a struggling artist,] you have to paint some things for the

tourists in New Orleans. But now I had to do little of that. The guaranteed income allowed me to grow as an artist more rapidly over a period of two years.

**CL: In the commissioned paintings, how was your style different from the way it has developed over the years?**

RG: The style I was doing then is called painting "loose" – without a lot of fine detail, using big brushes. Now, I work much slower. I put more detail, patterns and subjective feelings of geometry in the paintings.

**CL: I've read that you've dubbed some of your work "borderline surrealism." Tell me about this.**

RG: Yes, I coined this term. The borderline surrealism pieces are the ones that I say are "possible but



*This painting, "Huntin' for Big Mama's," includes many style elements he is known for, including signs, old buildings and sunsets.*

**See GOLDEN, page 9**



**“I HAD FORGOTTEN MOST OF [THE PAINTINGS]. AFTER ALL, THAT WAS ALMOST 50 YEARS AND SEVERAL THOUSAND PAINTINGS AGO.” – ROLLAND GOLDEN**

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highly unlikely.” Someone else called me an abstract realist, because I use subtle geometric forms. I use a lot of hard-edges in my paintings.

**CL: Is any of this style evident in the paintings you did for the highway department? Was this style developing when you did the DOTD pieces?**

RG: No, I had not developed that style while doing the DOTD pieces. [Early in my career,] I had studied with a watercolorist who got me into painting quickly. Eventually my style turned to a more tight way of painting. The borderline surrealism didn’t come along for 25 years [into my career], if not longer. But that is what happens when you are a painter, you are going to come up with different things – if your career is long. Once my work changed, a lot of people didn’t buy any more paintings. But you have to paint what you want to paint and what you feel you need to paint.

**CL: I have noticed a lot of transportation elements in many of your paintings, such as roads, road signs, road barricades, railroad lines, etc. Is this intentional? What do the symbols mean to you?**

RG: I like those subjects – roads, streets and highways. I have painted roads since I was able to borrow my dad’s car. I loved the roads, the highways. There was something sort of “art-deco” about them. Railroads and trains were

some of the earliest things I was interested in.

**CL: Is this the first time you’ve seen the paintings since you’d finished them?**

RG: Yes. During the years I was painting them, I would visit Baton Rouge every five weeks with a new group of paintings. So I did see some of them as they were being framed. Mr. Hays Town, the architect who designed the DOTD building, liked my work. When I got 10 or so together, I would go [to Baton Rouge] with the paintings. We’d set them around one of the rooms there, and some of the department heads would come in. If they liked a piece, they would choose it.

**CL: What was your reaction to seeing the paintings?**

RG: I had forgotten most of

them. After all, that was almost 50 years and several thousand paintings ago. I said, “Gee, those are better than I thought they were.” You often think that your first works were immature.

**CL: Tell me about your Katrina exhibition.**

RG: My most recent exhibition, “Katrina: Days of Terror, Months of Anguish,” opened in the New Orleans Museum of Art in November. I have been working on it for the last two years, and I am still working on Katrina paintings now. I had about 34 total paintings in the exhibit.

**CL: Do you think about retiring?**

RG: Every now and then I think about it, but I love to paint. I think as long as I have the feeling for it, I will do it. My wife says if I go too long without painting, I get grumpy.


Editor’s note: For more information about Rolland Golden’s art, visit [www.rollandgolden.com](http://www.rollandgolden.com).




*“Empty Silence” from Golden’s Katrina exhibition.*

## NEWS BRIEFS




 Cliff Ratzenberger, left, discusses the Twin Spans with Mark Lambert of DOTD. The Travel Channel's "Made in America Show," hosted by Ratzenberger, featured the I-10 Twin Span Bridge on April 16. The footage was shot on the construction site of the new Twin Span Bridge.



 From left, Bill Temple, William D. Ankner, Ph.D., and Gerrie Penn of DOTD; Wes Bolinger of FHWA; and Ken Naquin of AGC acknowledge the receipt of a Tier 1 accreditation certificate for the newly formed Louisiana Partnership for Highway Quality.




 Lance Cpl. Reitz of the unit weapons company, 3rd battalion, 23rd marines, collects six boxes full of toys from DOTD headquarters Dec. 14 for the Toys for Tots drive.




 Richard Savoie of DOTD delivers a presentation to attendees during a safety summit hosted Feb. 27-28 in Baton Rouge by DOTD and the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission. The summit allowed members from the transportation community to collaborate on highway safety issues.



 The winner of a drawing for one free item from the Books Are Fun fair was Jenny Hamilton. The book fair, held Dec. 12-13, 2007, at DOTD headquarters, raised \$234 for Scotlandville Magnet High School, DOTD's partner school.



 Employees from the fourth floor of headquarters and several employees from Financial Services collectively sponsored the Battered Women's Shelter this Easter. They were able to provide each of the children with an Easter basket and each of the mothers with a \$50 gift certificate to Wal-Mart.

# Two new bridges open after hurricane delays

**O**rlleans and St. Tammany parishes witnessed another sign of hurricane recovery as the new Rigolets Pass Bridge on U.S. 90 (Chef Menteur Highway) opened to local traffic Jan. 15, 2008.

The new \$50.5 million project began construction in October 2004 but was delayed eight months by Hurricane Katrina. The new 5,491-foot-long high-rise bridge is 72 feet at its highest mark, with one 12-foot lane in each direction, and 8-foot outside shoulders. This bridge replaces the old Rigolets Pass Bridge, a 14-foot high, 3,200-foot-long mechanical swing-span bridge with 10-foot lanes and no shoulders.

The Lewis Street Bridge over Bayou Teche in New Iberia also opened to traffic Dec. 7, 2007, after more than a year of hurricane-forced delays.

Boh Bros. Construction Co. began construction on the bridge March 21, 2004, and was scheduled to complete the \$13.3 million project by September 2006.

However, Hurricane Katrina caused major damage that set the project back about 17 months.

The new bridge, which replaced the old Lewis Street swing-span bridge, has a 116-foot-long vertical lift span with 20-foot approach spans. It is supported by 90- to 122-foot precast concrete piles, footings, columns and caps. Its steel girders weigh about 80,000 pounds each. The 67.5-foot-wide bridge features five lanes, including a center turn lane, and 6-foot sidewalks.



*The new Rigolets Pass Bridge is 58 feet higher than the one it replaced. Its lanes are two feet wider than those on the original bridge, and it has 8-foot outside shoulders.*

## Technology Transfer

The following employees became certified inspectors between Sept. 1, 2007, and Feb. 29, 2008:

<b>PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE</b>		Pamela Higginbotham	05
<b>PAVING INSPECTION</b>		Gregory D. Nappier	05
Emery Chauvin	02	Eddie G. Spillers	05
Peter deVeer	02	Vance L. Trichel	05
Richard Puglise	02	Steven Labouve	07
Stephen Bell	04	Amber James	61
Carlton Frye	04	Randall Rutland	61
John Gasaway	04	Larry Magee	62
Kenneth J. Reliford	04		
Pamela Higginbotham	05	<b>ASPHALTIC CONCRETE</b>	
Bradley Waller	05	<b>PAVING INSPECTION</b>	
Timothy Coleman	07	Christopher Hotard	02
James Bates	61	Brandon P. Melancon	02
Paul Farkas	62	Ryan M. Robert	02
		Jeffrey A. Willett	02
<b>EMBANKMENT AND BASE</b>		Dwayne Melancon	03
<b>COURSE INSPECTION</b>		Debra Bice	04
Joel A. Lormand	03	Marvin Ford	04
Russell Hutto	05	John W. Evans	58
<b>STRUCTURAL CONCRETE</b>		<b>ASPHALT PLANT INSPECTION</b>	
<b>INSPECTION</b>		Wade Duplechin	03
Jarrold Francois	03		
Stephen A. Bell	04	<b>DISTRICT LABORATORY</b>	
John D. Gasaway	04	Dustin Hickman	04
Renea Wise	04	Barry Williams	04
Danny C. Corrent	05	Christopher Durbin	62

# DOTD receives national award for innovative intersection design

**D**OTD has received a national award for its innovative “Continuous Flow Intersection” (CFI) on Airline Highway at Sherwood Forest Boulevard in Baton Rouge.

The CFI concept eliminates “conflict points” at an intersection by allowing vehicles to cross over opposing traffic several hundred feet before the intersection through a series of carefully timed traffic signals. The National Partnership for Highway Quality called the CFI concept “another revolutionary technique to address operational issues.”

A recent study shows the intersection is handling more traffic than it was before the CFI was installed but is moving the traffic faster and with fewer crashes.

The CFI was designed for DOTD by ABMB Engineers, a Baton Rouge firm. Mike Bruce, a principal in the firm, noted that the Baton Rouge CFI was the first of its kind in the country.

Because the CFI is a new

concept, DOTD formed a task force to study its effectiveness and the public’s perception of how well the intersection is working. The findings show:

- o Congestion time at the intersection has been reduced by as much as 40 percent during the evening rush hour, which is the intersection’s worst congestion period.

- o CFI has allowed approximately 10 percent more traffic to pass through the intersection.

- o The number of crashes at the intersection has been reduced by 27 percent since the CFI opened.

- o Approximately 92 percent of drivers are satisfied with the operation of the CFI.

- o About 87 percent of drivers believe the traffic congestion has lessened.

- o About 74 percent of drivers believe travel time has decreased.

- o About 68 percent of drivers believe safety has increased.



*Aerial view of the CFI intersection.*

## HR HOT TOPICS

### INTERNAL REFERRAL REWARDS PROGRAM

Effective February 1, 2008, DOTD launched its Internal Referral Rewards Program to reward current DOTD employees (excludes HR personnel, appointing authorities, members of selection team for position applied for, and employees who are involved in DOTD formal recruiting efforts, i.e. campus recruiting, career fairs) who refer applicants for difficult to fill positions who are subsequently hired. Eligible positions are those with a Special Entrance Rate (SER). The applicant must identify the DOTD employee as the referring source in his/her initial interview. After the new employee successfully completes his/her first six months of employment and receives a merit increase based on satisfactory performance and successful completion of required training, a \$500 cash payment will be awarded to the referring employee. Please see PPM 52 on the Human Resources intranet site for the entire policy and referral forms.

# PERSONNEL UPDATES

(SEPTEMBER 2007-FEBRUARY 2008)

## NEW HIRES

### DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS

Florence Autin, Brian Baudier, Robbie Breaux, Joshua Brown, Rocky Cantrelle, Andrew Clough, Carla Diggs, Curtis Doiron, Aquitta Edwards, Telita Franklin, Amy Guidry, Adam Hall, James Henry, Quincy Johnson, Windell Johnson, Antoinette Jones, Cyneka Jones, Henry Langlois, Brock Manno, Janelle McSweeney, Stormy Parfait, Joshua Patterson, Willie Rimmer, Ward Robichaux, Stephen Rooney, Whitney Roussell, Bruce Simoneaux, Dontrell Thibodaux, Stephen Tumblin, Dale Ullo, Pamela Venable, Robin Vinet

### DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE

Christopher Adams, John Bergeron, James Brown, Patrick Charles, Anthony Colar, Eric Dauphine, Jeffery Delasbour, Kevin Domingue, Wade Duhon, Michael Guidry, Carroll

Hopkins, Jeremy Kline, Monica Krieg, Ray Lagrange, Mark Little, Donna Morein, Anthony Randall, Amber Richard, David Richard, Julian Romero, Donald Stevenson, John Trahan, Derek Williams

### DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY

Gary Ayres, Andrew Bullook, Robert Franklin, Michael Rister, Sean Robinson, Perry Starr, Jonathan Thomas, Kenneth Wilson

### DISTRICT 05 – MONROE

Brandon Barnett, Micah Bougues, Lawrence Burgess, Cedric Bynum, Ronald Clarkson Jr., Johnny Cole, Colby Denman, James Deweese, Dillon Evans, Dinah Johnson-Gilliard, Justin Gregory, Matthew Gunther, Clay James, Brandy Jones, Darius Lawson, David Marine, Shawn Marsh, Gordon Matheny, David McDaniel, Billy Plummer Jr., Clayton Scott, Leanne Slaton,

Freddy Snow, William Stodghill, Gary Stone, Rocco Sylvestri, James Thompson, Julius Thompson, Roger Thompson, James Toney, Albert Veach, Cruz Wells

### DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES

Melinda Courville, Santana Jinks, Eric Perkins, Cliff Sonnier, Miranda Stracener

### DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA

Kenneth Banks, Freddy Bonner Jr., Ricky Chelette, Nicholas Glenn, Melisa Humphries, Sherry Meshell, Sandra Rollins, Jerry Sterling, Daryl Vidrine, Deadra White, Kenneth Williams

### DISTRICT 58 – CHASE

Brandon Bamburg, Jordan Blossom, Kendarious Credit, Randall Delaughter, James Dupree, Jeffery Hill, Phillip Hutto, Justin Linder, Ruston Ragsdale, Danny Smith

### DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE

Christopher Brewer, Patrick Cannon, Samuel Carter, Patrick Chaney, Thomas Couvillier, Demond Domino, Aaron Ellis, Michelle Gray, Philip Guedry, Christopher Johnson, Lillian Johnson, Keith Mayeux, Nolan Mullen, Thomas Pellegrin, Wayne St. Romain, Edward Roy, John Smothers

### DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND

Dustin Barber, Billy Bennett, Larry Champagne, Marvin Cutrer, Timothy Dalgo, Coutney Hardesty, Sonny Lum, Demetrius Maryland, Monchea McCant, Ruston Prevost, Elizabeth Schuster, Joy St. Pierre, Michael Wells

### HEADQUARTERS & OTHER

William Ankner, John Annison, Colandra Authorlee, Keith Beard, Jennifer Benton, Clarence Black, Cynthia Bowman, Peggy Bueche, Kellee Burley, Jacara Butler, Candace

***See PERSONNEL, page 14***

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**PERSONNEL** (continued from page 13)

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Cardwell, Donald  
Cardwell, Frank  
Chachere, Alicia  
Christopher, Kisha  
Clausell, Bryan Cobb,  
Bruce Collins, Adele  
Cook, Leticia  
Courville, Jenny  
David, Joseph Davis,  
Gordon Derouen,  
Gajinder Dhaliwal,  
Megan Dorgan, Ashley  
Dorsey, Carl Duke,  
Doyle Dunn, Patrick  
Duvernay, Elizabeth  
Eastwood, Andre  
Fillastre, Shamonda  
Firven, Makisha  
Foster, Roberto  
Franklin, Patrick  
Frazier, Alexis Gaither,  
Sabrina George,  
Joseph Gibson, Tina  
Glasper, Mark  
Goodman, Joaquin  
Gudiel, Lawrence  
Hamm, Renica Harts,  
Sandra Haynes, Amber  
Hebert, Jermaine  
Hebert, Dasha Henry,  
Jose Hernandez,  
Kenneth Hernandez,  
Benny Herrington,  
Olivia Hess, Jackson  
Hinton, Michael  
Jackson, Kai Ji,  
Jeremy Jones, Robyn  
Kane, Darren  
Kendrick, John  
Koempel, Edward  
Krass, Dallas Love,  
Renada Macklin, Mary

McCammon, Gerard  
McDougle, Andrew  
Michael, Shana Miles,  
Michael Miller,  
Jennifer Minnick,  
Ronald Moody,  
Katrina Moore, Shanta  
Moore, Lakeeta  
Morris, Tracie Morton,  
Patrick Murphy,  
Lamarcus Nelson,  
Kennette Nichols,  
Randal Noland,  
Annette Parker, Jack  
Patin, Carisa Perry,  
Leatrice Petes, Tina  
Pilcher, April Renard,  
Samantha Robinson,  
Charmaine Rowan,  
Craig Shaffett, Eston  
Spain, Jennifer  
Speights, Ethan  
Spillman, Cynthia  
Spring, Delaware  
Stokes, John Streckfus,  
Laketta Sykes, Jessica  
Taylor, David Tippet,  
Brandon Travis,  
Michael Tucker,  
Michelle Young,  
Bonnie Waddell, Lei  
Wang, Alicia Wheeler,  
Khadejah Williams,  
Joseph Wills, Destiny  
Shanti Wilson, Jackson  
Wilson, Lawanda  
Wilson

**PROMOTIONS****DISTRICT 02 – NEW  
ORLEANS**

Roxanne Abadie, Mark

Andrus, Kevin Barbier,  
Troy Barrios,  
Thaddeus Bell, Draina  
Buniger, Brady Giroir,  
Dennis Hebert,  
Melanie Leboeuf, Al  
Poche, Jacqueline  
Price, Richard Puglise,  
Carroll Scott, Emma  
Suggs

**DISTRICT 03 –  
LAFAYETTE**

Steve Draughon,  
Lawrence Fontenot,  
Jarrod Francois, Lydia  
Greenough, Douglas  
Horton, Rachael  
Menard, Robert Trahan

**DISTRICT 04 –  
BOSSIER CITY**

Edward Adams,  
Shelton Burks, John  
Carte, Melton Faulk,  
Steven Holland, Milton  
Hostetler, Johnny  
Jones, Mickey Martin,  
Carla Maynard,  
Thomas Myers, Carl  
Nelson, Kerry  
Williams

**DISTRICT 05 –  
MONROE**

Kevin Blunck, Frankie  
Brown, Roger  
Easterling, Daniel  
Evans, Charles Milton,  
Jeffrey Moody,  
Michael Patterson,  
Jeffrey Stapleton,

Gwendolyn Turner,  
Dolores Watts, Charles  
Weems, David  
Whittington

**DISTRICT 07 – LAKE  
CHARLES**

Chelsey Bourgeois,  
Dan Daniels, Tommy  
Manuel, John Smith,  
Joseph Trahan, Stacy  
White

**DISTRICT 08 –  
ALEXANDRIA**

Eddie Ardoin, David  
Backstedt, Brian  
Barton, Jerry  
Burnaman, Grady  
Cross, Ted Dalgo,  
Shuntel Davis,  
Matthew Elkins,  
Lorraine Griffin,  
Donald Friels, Cheryl  
George, Melvin Hicks,  
James Lewis, Jimmy  
Lowery, Tyrone Nears,  
Jackie Robinson,  
Chadwick Whitstine,  
Mark Winn

**DISTRICT 58 – CHASE**

Robert Carter, Ernest  
Coleman, Brenda  
Cruse, Kenneth  
Dunham, Michael  
Free, Michael Henry,  
Sandra Jackson,  
Russell King, Shannon  
Stephens, Andrew

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**See UPDATES, page 15**

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## UPDATES (continued from page 14)

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Storey

### **DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE**

Hewitt Beauvais, John  
Buckley, Victoria  
Cairns, Michael  
Carney, Elvis Davis,  
Ronnie George, Zoalee  
Hayes, Nathan  
Lemoine, James  
McNamara, Michael  
Merrow, James Ott,  
Angela Simmons,  
Joshua Stutes, Kenneth  
Terrell, Bruce Tinsley,  
Patricia Tullier,  
Samuel Wagner,  
Michelle Williams,  
Jerome Winfield

### **DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND**

Jo Addison, Donald  
Barber, Ryan Creel,  
Lisa Cutrer, Grover  
Day, Larry Sharp,  
David Tregre

### **HEADQUARTERS & OTHER**

Mollie Adomako,  
Joshua Albritton,  
Tracey Andry, Ellen  
Baldridge, Kurt  
Brauner, Mark Bucci,  
Cheryl Butler, Victoria  
Cairns, Kathryn  
Carlson, Joey Cartinez,  
Joel Casey, Eva  
Cavalier, Paul  
Charron, Debra Coco,

Toby Comeaux, Jackie  
Courtney, Brian  
Delatte, Helen  
Devillier, Gail  
Duplessis, Kellie  
Ferguson, Kelly Folse,  
Sabrina Fuller, Gavin  
Gautreau, Julius  
Glenn, D. Gray-  
Chambers, Truett  
Gregory, Richard  
Harbor, Daniel Jones,  
Carl Krumm, Thanh  
Lam, Edwin Lantzer,  
Karen Lemoine,  
Lorraine Louque,  
Robin Matthews,  
Marianne Mayard,  
Christopher McMorris,  
Adam McSwain,  
Theresa Meliet,  
Candace Murdock,  
Peggy Olivier, Sarah  
Ragona, Tonyic  
Robertson, Sandra  
Romero, Michael  
Sacco, Charles Smith,  
Delos Turner, Sandra  
Woolie

### **RETIREMENTS**

#### **DISTRICT 02 – NEW ORLEANS**

Penny Coleman,  
Warren Hotard, Larry  
Langenstein, Earl  
LeBeouf, Wayne  
Monfrey, Linda  
Touchard

#### **DISTRICT 03 – LAFAYETTE**

George Miller,  
LeFraye Segura, James  
Smith, Kenneth  
Theriot, Aubry Wyble

#### **DISTRICT 04 – BOSSIER CITY**

Willie Byrd, Clifford  
Coldiron, Nathan  
Hooper, Fulton Jones,  
Allen Keith, Willie  
Richmond

#### **DISTRICT 05 – MONROE**

Willie Hardwell,  
Charles Hudson,  
Danny Manning,  
James Rich, Rusty  
Skains, Charliene  
Smith, Donald Smith

#### **DISTRICT 07 – LAKE CHARLES**

Paul Boudreaux,  
Carolyn Droddy,  
Charles Hester,  
Jenniffer Hidalgo,  
Lottie Lebleu, Robert  
Price, Bobbie Scott

#### **DISTRICT 08 – ALEXANDRIA**

Ronald Gauthier,  
Julius LeMoine, James  
Massey, Odis Perkins,  
John Roberts, John  
Weatherford

#### **DISTRICT 58 – CHASE**

Donald Peterson,  
Ronnie Poole

### **DISTRICT 61 – BATON ROUGE**

Bobby Courtney, Dale  
Hebert, Morris Jones

### **DISTRICT 62 – HAMMOND**

Virgil Clement, Lionel  
Cotton, Sarah Kemp

### **HEADQUARTERS & OTHER**

Deidre Adams, Charles  
Albright, Elizabeth  
Avants, Elton Barks,  
Peggy Bourgeois, Lynn  
Browning, Carlos  
Caceres, Cherri  
Clement, Sheryll  
Creel, Reynaldo  
Delcastillo, Ronald  
Delaune, Emily  
Efferson, David Felder,  
Larry Fly, George  
Gele, Sue Glass,  
Ronald Goynes,  
Regnia Jackson,  
Robert Kidder, Henry  
Lacinak, Gwendolyn  
LaFrance, Randall  
Landry, Robert  
Ledoux, Margaret  
Link, Michael Linton,  
James Luneau, Sara  
Mayes, David  
McEleveen, Charles  
Mitchell, Bruce Novo,  
Lloyd Ostendorf,  
Mellie Raleigh,  
Carolyn Thompson,  
Michael Schmitt, Jack  
Shaffer



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# QUARTERLY RECOGNITION AWARDS

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(QUARTER ENDING MARCH 2007)

## Headquarters

### Employee of the Quarter

Brian Parsons

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Phillip Macaluso Jr., Stephen McCarroll

### Secretary's Award of Excellence

Michael Bridges, Cedric Grant, Christopher Fletcher

### Designated Safety

### Coordinator Recognition

Tony Smith

## District 02

### Employee of the Quarter

James Handy

### Manager of the Quarter

Melvin Ursin

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Jo Ellen Bruney, Tomeka Edwards, Donald Phillips Sr., Leonard Scott, Lilly Sue Tullos, Mary White

## District 03

### Employee of the Quarter

John D. Trahan

### Manager of the Quarter

Gregory J. Sylvester

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Harry L. Bernard Jr., Oscar L. Domingue, Darrel Guidry, Phillip Norman, Wiley Robin Jr., Allen Smith Jr.

## District 04

### Employee of the Quarter

Nathan G. Hooper

### Manager of the Quarter

Kevin A. Brown

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

No recipient

## District 05

### Employee of the Quarter

Mitchell Boyte Jr.

### Manager of the Quarter

Jimmy Densmore II

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

No recipient

## District 07

### Employee of the Quarter

Janis Arrant

### Manager of the Quarter

Edward Jackson

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

James Bourque, Linda Broussard, Mike Clophus, Jim Golding, Tommy Granger, Julie Grooms, George Guthrie, Bobby Hennigan, Chris Hidalgo, Todd Landry, Lottie LeBleu, Sally LeJeune, Sharon Lewis, Freddie Perrodin, Carrie Richard, Yvette Richard, Danny Spears

## District 08

### Employee of the Quarter

Beverly Sheppard

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Terry Bartley, Delloyd Brunson Jr., Charles Johnson Jr., Donnell King

## District 58

### Employee of the Quarter

Nell Brown

### Manager of the Quarter

Jeff McDonald

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Ernest Coleman, Ronnie Eubanks, Lonnie F. Hatten, Ricky R. Humphries, John L. Lewis

## District 61

### Employee of the Quarter

Carmen Hernandez

### Manager of the Quarter

Collins Landry

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

No recipient

## District 62

### Employee of the Quarter

Lisa Cutrer

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Ronald Harrison Jr., Yale Lappin, Clayton Lee, Roland Lee, John Matherne, Lloyd Mayfield, Andy Wayne Nobles, Wayne Nobles, Frank Williams

## CCCD

### Employee of the Quarter

Helen Delatte

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Joseph Amadeo, Theron Armstrong, Helen Delatte, Miguel C. Dukes, Christopher Fletcher, Guy Gonzales, Michael L. Schmitt

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# QUARTERLY RECOGNITION AWARDS

(QUARTER ENDING JUNE 2007)

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## Headquarters

### Employee of the Quarter

Rhonda Foster

### Manager of the Quarter

Maurice Songy

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Mark Chenevert, Diane McClure

### Secretary's Award of Excellence

Sherri LeBas, Sharon Lyles,

Shawn Wilson

No recipient

## District 05

### Employee of the Quarter

Tina Hill

### Manager of the Quarter

Ronald Gallien

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Carolyn Fuller, Amy McMellon,

Meva McMellon

Johnny Duchesne, Michael

Henry, Oscar Howard, Charles

Lewis, Carey McCoy, Levi

Mercer, Billy Overton, Charles

Parker, Vincent Smith

## District 61

### Employee of the Quarter

Wanda Jarreau

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Duane P. Alleman, Alfred Allen,

Olen Batiste, Gerald Bryant,

Terry Denson, Anthony Harrell,

Kenzie Littles, Mitchell Pinsonat,

Warren Winfield

## District 02

### Employee of the Quarter

Trebor Breaux

### Manager of the Quarter

Timothy Hassenboehler

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Sabrina Fuller, Tamicia Lafrance,

Gary McSweeney, Edward Mire,

Linda Paternostro, Al Poche,

## District 07

### Employee of the Quarter

Ricky Manuel

### Manager of the Quarter

Steven Young

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

No recipient

## District 08

### Employee of the Quarter

Charles Hewitt Jr.

### Manager of the Quarter

Ryan Ingles

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

No recipient

## District 03

### Employee of the Quarter

Ethan D. Matte

### Manager of the Quarter

Charles R. Moran

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Carnell Davis, Robert G. Trahan

## District 58

### Employee of the Quarter

Isaac Adams

### Manager of the Quarter

Andrew Howard Jr.

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Fred Cruse, Marvin Cruse, Gerald

Currington, Charles Dorsey,

## District 62

### Employee of the Quarter

No recipient

### Manager of the Quarter

No recipient

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

Wayne Rawls, Jason Thomas

## CCCD

### Employee of the Quarter

Larry Anderson

### Manager of the Quarter

Johnson L. Hale III

### Best Team Effort of the Quarter

John Adamo, Herbert Hotard Jr.,

Reginald Hunt, Willie Jackson,

Satnaraine Rambaran, Percy

Stone

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Five thousand, seven hundred copies of this public document were published in one printing at a cost of \$1,850. This document was published by Moran Printing Inc. under authority of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established in R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

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## Human Resources Contacts: (225) 379-1259

Contact	Title	Area of Responsibility
Susan Pellegrin	HR Director	Overall responsibility for HR program
Ellen Baldrige	Administrative Assistant	HR administrative support; Liaison-Weststaff Temporary Service
Mike Tucker	Assistant HR Director	Policy interpretation; Drug/alcohol testing; Ethics issues; AFSCME contract
Kay McRae	HR Manager-Operations	ISIS security & training administrator; Liaison with district HR analysts
Marlise McCammon	HR Manager-Employee Relations	Discipline; Appeals/grievances; EEOC liaison; Discrimination/harassment; Training
Lynette Gray-Chambers	HR Supervisor	Competitive vacancy posting; Transfers; Agency organization chart; TO maintenance/reports; Liaison with Civil Service Assistance Division
Janice Drake	HR Specialist	Recruiting; EEO Program & AA reporting/monitoring; TJAR; Immigration Compliance Summer Student Programs
Cecelia Donald	HR Supervisor	Liaison w/Office of State Uniform Payroll (OSUP); Recoupment of overpayments; LEO contact; Timekeeper assistance
Toby Comeaux	HR Specialist	Position allocation; Allocation criteria; Organizational structure consulting; FLSA compliance; Job studies coordination; SCHR liaison
Sarah Ragona	HR Specialist	Performance planning & review; Selection process for engineering managers; Structured interview assistance
Candy Cardwell	HR Analyst	Workers compensation/transitional return to duty coordinator; FMLA coordinator; Employee recognition program; EAP coordinator; Military leave coordinator; Education leave/reimbursement coordinator; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator
Ellen Catherine	HR Analyst	Liaison with LA State Employees' Retirement Plan (LASERS); Retirement counseling/assistance
Cecelia Donald	HR Analyst	Group benefits; Active employee reconciliation
Shanta Moore	Accountant	Retiree liaison; Retiree reconciliation
Larry Salisbury	Admin. Coordinator	Employee records; Reference checks
Jourdon Leonard	Student Worker	Administrative support
Janice Bernard	HR Analyst	Workers' comp buy back/leave adjustments; Adjustments for time entries; Leave payouts
Robin Boudreaux	HR Analyst	Enters personnel actions & posts vacancies for sections: 34, 50, 53, 51, 55, 56, 48, & 80
Carissa Perry	HR Analyst	Enters personnel actions & posts vacancies/issues list of candidates for sections: 01, 06, 09, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 26, 31, 37, 38, 39 & 47
Tina Turner	HR Analyst	Enters personnel actions & posts vacancies/issues list of candidates for sections: 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 67 & 68
Jo Ann Peltier	HR Analyst	Enters personnel actions & posts vacancies/issues list of candidates for sections: 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30 & 77
Paula Berwick	HR Analyst	Enters personnel actions & posts vacancies/issues list of candidates for sections: 12, 19, 21, 22, 28, 33, 35, 49, 63, 64, 66, 81, 82, 85, & 88

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# MAILBAG



Dear Ms. [Lisa] Fuller,

I have received the right of way plans you submitted to our request. I want to thank you for your concern and help in this matter. The copies were of good legible quality and complete. This will enable the contractor to perform his project for the town which will eliminate a problem the Highway Department is having with the water lines before they make improvements to the highway. Your help is most appreciated and you have renewed my faith in the DOTD. Thank You again.

Robert Wolfe, Jr. PE PLS

Dear Sir,

I wanted to write your office a letter to express my sincere appreciation for cleaning the ditches along Walker Rd. N. in the vicinity of my residence. I understand the task it is to attempt to keep the ditches and roadways clean. I will now do my best to keep leaves and debris from getting into my ditches.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,  
William Hornsey

Dear Connie [Standige],

On Feb. 25, 2008, outside LaPlace going to Lafayette, I had a blowout with my car. Two of your very nice people - "Push" & "Spec" - (William Brady and Larry Champagne) stopped and helped change the tire.

How very nice! They deserve a world of thanks and praise.

Sincerely,  
Herb and Cathy Lacassagne

Gentlemen:

I am writing to compliment your MAP units patrolling the I-10/I-610 to Causeway Blvd. corridor. They have been of significant help on the Interstate assisting the motoring public with breakdowns and motorists assistance. They have helped us at various times with traffic control problems related to the construction activity. Some of the problems we have experienced are a result of the public having flat tires, fuel problems, stalling on the roadways and just the average motoring problems.

When vehicles have hit the concrete barriers, they have assisted with traffic control and allowed us to get the equipment in place to resolve the problem. Their assistance in these matters is greatly appreciated and very helpful in returning the traffic flow to some degree of normalcy. When called upon by our foreman, the units have responded as promptly as possible and have been very courteous and accommodating.

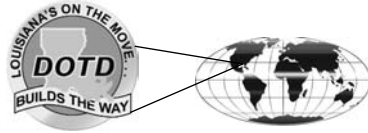
Thank you very much and please let the patrol units know how much we appreciate them and their services.

Thanks,  
Nelson J. Ardoin, Jr., Project Supt.  
Boh Bros. Construction Co.

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**COMMUTER LINES**

Louisiana DOTD  
Public Information Office  
P.O. Box 94245  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245



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## DOTD breaks ground on La. 16 widening job

**D**OTD broke ground Oct. 12 on a project to widen La. 16 between Denham Springs and Watson. The more than 25,000 drivers who use this road each day can expect some relief partly because of the surplus funds received from the 2007 Legislative Session.

"We are removing a bottleneck that frustrates the people driving between Denham Springs and Watson," said DOTD Undersecretary Michael Bridges. "We thank the governor and the legislature for providing the additional funds necessary to fix our roads, and we are here today putting that money to work."

The 2-mile project on La. 16 is the first surplus funded capacity project in this area. The project will widen La. 16 from just north of La. 1025 to just south of La. 1019. The road will increase from two lanes to four lanes with a raised median. The new lanes will be 12 feet wide with 10-foot outside shoulders and 6-foot inside shoulders. A \$7.7 million contract was awarded to Barriere Construction Co. LLC of Franklinton.



*Marie Fletcher (left), whose home is near the site of the groundbreaking ceremony, helped to break ground for the construction. Others pictured, from left, are State Sen. Huelette "Clo" Fontenot, State Sen. Dale Erdey, State Rep. Mack A. "Bodi" White Jr., and DOTD Undersecretary Michael Bridges.*

Speakers at the groundbreaking included Bridges; State Sen. Huelette "Clo" Fontenot; State Rep. Mack A. "Bodi" White Jr.; and Livingston Parish President Michael "Mike" Grimmer.